Issues of Early Foreign Language Learning

Mamadayupova Vasila Shonazarovna
Senior Lecturer, Department of Foreign Languages, Tashkent State Law University

Abstract

In this article, the methods used in teaching children a foreign language, including English, from an early age. It also discusses the focus of foreign language teaching.

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The growing interest in learning foreign languages has led many parents to ask, "At what age can I start learning English?" Someone started learning the language from the first grade of secondary school, someone - seriously engaged in this institute, someone decided to add English to the bank of knowledge and skills. professional development. Many English language courses will start offering a “from 2 years old” service. We’ve already talked about which language is best for your child to learn. Now we answer the question of at what age a child can be taught English.

The age at which children can learn English is a traditional concept. "At what age can children memorize foreign languages?" Each has its own, clear answer to the question. no, it can't be. And yet, teachers, linguists, and psychologists are increasingly talking about having an acceptable age to learn English. But every psychologist, teacher, parent and child is different in the age of any other researcher on the subject of learning English. The main thing that everyone should pay attention to is that the child should enjoy the process of learning the language. Use fairy tales, counting rhymes in English, finger games, and other fun forms of language learning.

And yet, at what age can you take your first step into the world of English?

From the first days of life

Of course, you can’t send your baby to English school or courses at this age. Also, even inviting a teacher is not a good option. The child explores the world, interacts with it, recognizes parents who are trying to create a unique environment around them. You don’t want to invite anyone into this cozy little world. Therefore, if you want to start learning English with a child from the first days of life, rely only on your level of language proficiency. English cribs are a great option for a child to get acquainted with a foreign language for the first time.

“FOR” Arguments for Teaching Children Early English

1. Semicircular trap

The child’s brain is constantly growing and changing intensively. There is no significant difference in the activity of the right and left hemispheres at the beginning of a child’s life. But the child begins to grow, and both halves begin to firmly distribute responsibilities, including speech-related tasks.

The left hemisphere has consciousness and speech. This is the “main thing” in the speech. Its responsibilities include:

save the meaning of the word
logic
grammar
reading
The right hemisphere is unconscious and creative. In speech, he is responsible for:

- pronunciation
- intonation
- facial expressions
- gestures

And most importantly - guess the language

Thus, the right hemisphere is responsible for unconsciously understanding the meaning of an expression unknown to the context of “depending on what is happening”.

Acceptance of speech by a child under 7 years of age, including foreign speech, causes activity in both hemispheres of the brain, excitation in the right hemisphere from 7 to 9 years of age, and excitability abroad from 10 years of age. Speech is written with left only.

Thus, for a child who begins learning a foreign language at the age of 8, as our school has shown, it is unnatural for the nature of the brain to be able to easily distinguish foreign words, foreign intonation, and linguistic language. guess, that is, to understand the essence of what is being said, even if you do not know the meaning of some words.

**Spongy memory**

It is known that children absorb everything like sponges. But many people think that a sponge dries easily if you don’t keep it in water all the time.

A child’s memory can actually absorb a large layer of material in a foreign language, but only if the child regularly enters the language environment (hears a foreign speech, tries to speak, understands what he is saying).

Have you already guessed that with age, memory loses its appearance?

7. Translation difficulties in teaching English to children

An adult thinks in words. Children between the ages of 7 and 12 - mostly in pictures or images, but verbal reasoning is already gaining momentum. From 3 to 7 years - children think about pictures, images.

When a preschooler encounters a foreign word, he or she first associates it not with translation as an adult, but with a picture, a toy, an action, the property of something, that is, the real thing. Thus, preschool children do not have intermediaries in the form of Russian words between English and reality (with the correct organization of lessons, of course).

To succeed in English, you need to learn to think, not in Russian, and then translate what happened into a foreign speech.

It is easier for a child to learn to think in English than for an adult because the child thinks:

Before school:

The child thinks "cat" = the child imagines a cat.

The child thinks "cat" = the child imagines a cat.

From 7 years:

The child thinks “cat” = the child imagines a cat and remembers its features (animal, 4 paws, loves a mouse, etc.).

The child thinks "cat" = the child remembers being translated as "cat" = maybe then he imagines a cat. But teaching preschoolers to translate is hard work. For them, it’s a two-way job: remembering what the word means, and then what it’s said in Russian.
References:


